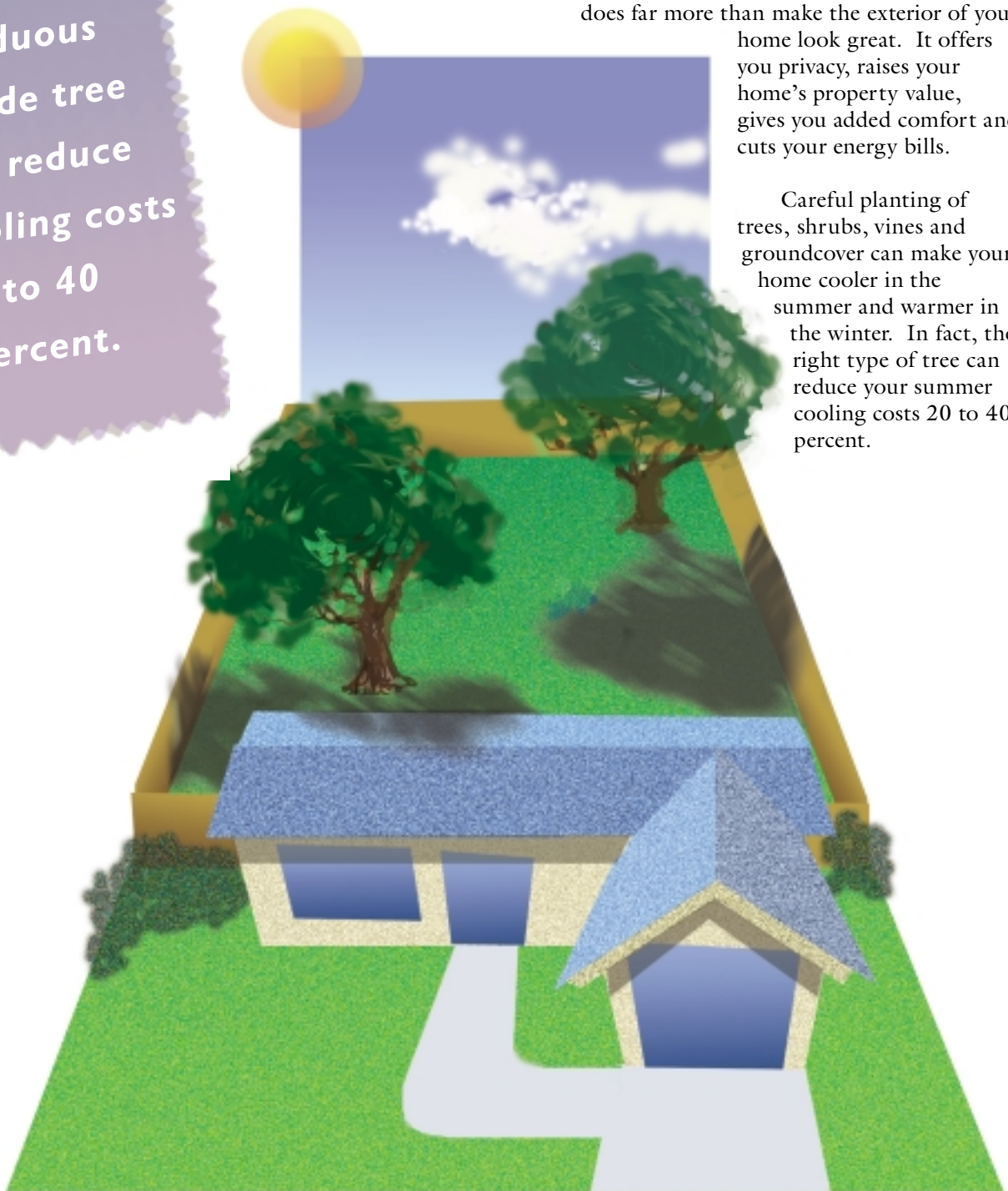


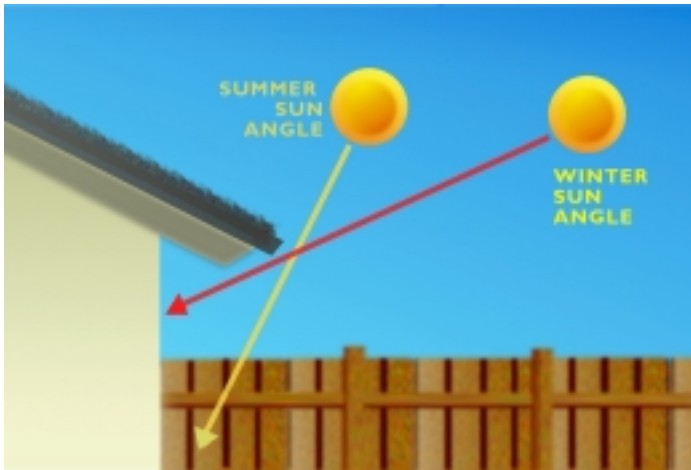
Landscape now and save energy the natural way

... a mature,
well-placed
deciduous
shade tree
can reduce
cooling costs
20 to 40
percent.

There are many things to think about when you move into a new home, such as curtains, wallpaper, carpeting and, of course, landscaping—all of which beautify your house. Landscaping, however, does far more than make the exterior of your home look great. It offers you privacy, raises your home's property value, gives you added comfort and cuts your energy bills.

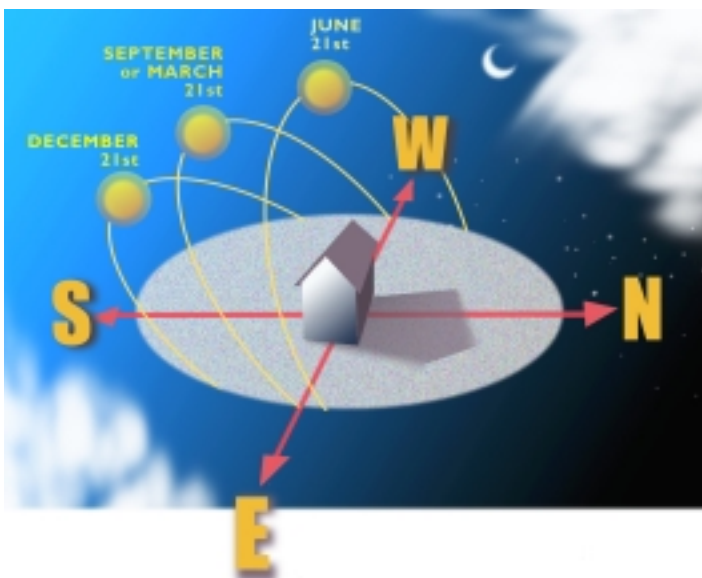
Careful planting of trees, shrubs, vines and groundcover can make your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. In fact, the right type of tree can reduce your summer cooling costs 20 to 40 percent.





KNOW YOUR CLIMATE TYPE

Throughout the year, the sun influences your home's temperature. The low winter sun brings welcome warmth (and light) through your windows, reducing the need to run your furnace. But high summer sunshine can make your home uncomfortably warm as it radiates through your roof, walls and windows, causing you to rely heavily on your air conditioner. By combining an understanding of the change of seasons and sun angles with some well-planned landscaping, you can lessen the sun's summer intensity and capture its winter radiance.



Deciduous trees

– ones that drop their leaves each winter – offer one of the best ways to cut home cooling costs. Plant them on the southeast and southwest sides of your house and they will provide excellent protection from summer sun by shading the roof, walls and windows. After the leaves drop in autumn, deciduous trees allow winter sunlight to reach and warm the house.

It's a good idea

to plant trees so they shade your windows, which allow the summertime heat to enter your home. If you want to preserve your view, keeping the sun's path in mind, plant one or two smaller trees slightly to the side(s) of the window.

Vines and climbing plants

act as effective sunscreens. They are particularly good against south-facing walls, which you may not want to shade with trees. Planting a deciduous vine such as grape lets you enjoy both summer shade and winter sun.

Planting shrubbery

a few feet away from all sides of the house will help reduce wall and soil temperatures, without obstructing air currents. By not planting too close you will protect your home's foundation from root damage.

aping plans:



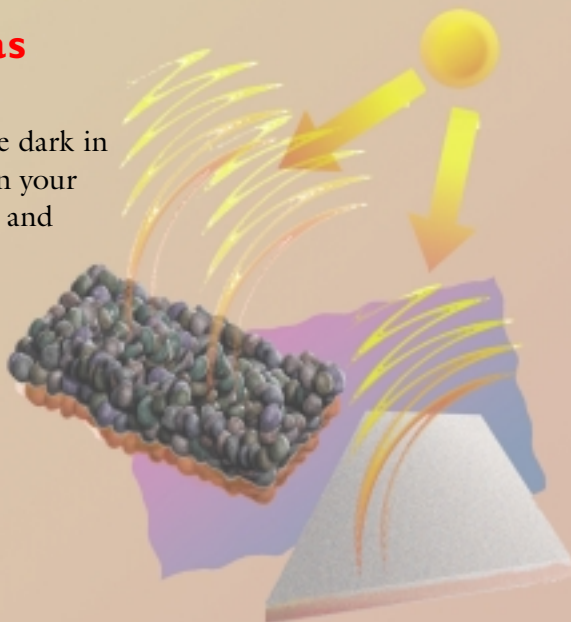
Remember

to consider the height, growth rate, branch spread and shape when determining a tree's cooling benefits. In general, shade as much of the roof and walls as possible. You may need to make a choice between covering a small portion of the roof and walls with dense shade or covering more area with less dense shade. It is more beneficial to cover more area with less dense shade. Wide-spreading trees are best for western exposures. And don't forget the height of the tree. Trees that never grow tall won't provide much shade.

Before you landscape, talk to the salespeople at your local nursery or garden center. They'll be able to recommend plants that grow well in your area, and point out aspects of a tree or shrub that may not be immediately apparent, such as how tall and far-reaching the plant will grow.

Large, paved areas and gravel beds

store heat, especially if they're dark in color. This heat can reflect on your home and yard, causing glare and substantial temperature increases. By surrounding areas such as your driveway and patio with shrubs and grass, you'll reduce the heat and glare.

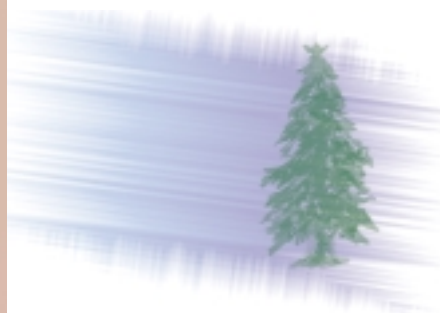


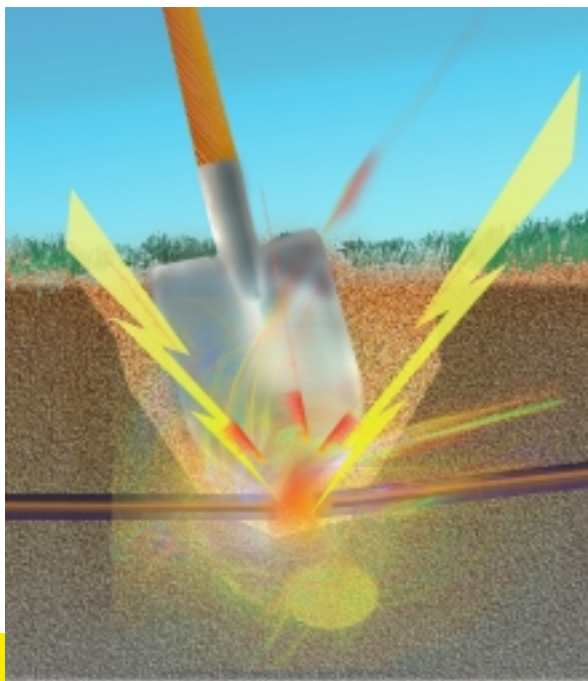
Plant trees and shrubs so they can direct cool breezes toward your home in the summer.



Winter winds

can chill the inside of your home. Planting evergreen trees where they can block cold wind before it hits the outside of your house will help cut your winter heating bills.





Watch out for utility lines!

Before you start digging holes for fencing or for the trees that will shade and beautify your home, determine the location of both underground and overhead utility lines. Remember that it's not just electric and telephone lines you need to be concerned about. There may also be gas, sewer, water, and cable TV lines on your property.

If the lines are underground and you're not sure where or how deep they're buried, contact your utility companies. You can also check your Yellow Pages for underground utility locating services. It pays to be safe!

When planting, remember that it isn't necessary to dig an extra deep hole. The best way to plant a tree or shrub is to make the hole twice the width and the same depth as the plant's rootball.

Another thing to consider is how tall your trees will grow. Tall trees such as ash, eucalyptus, and palm should never be planted near power lines. In fact, it's a good idea to avoid planting any trees under overhead wires. If you do, plant smaller growing trees with trunks and branches that will not reach within ten feet of the lines when fully grown.

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P400-99-003-FS3